

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 A-01 ABF-01 IGA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-04

AID-20 OPR-02 EUR-25 /118 W
----- 021949

R 230630Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6812

USCINCEUR

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMTM DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 JIDDA 2116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SA

SUBJECT: TOUR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

REF: (A) STATE 44978 DTG 062114Z MAR 74

(B) USMTM DHAHRAN DTG 150637Z NOV 73

(C) USMTM 201341Z APR 74 (NOTAL)

(D) USMTM DTG 260801Z MAR 74 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRINCE SULTAN AGREES THAT TWO-YEAR ACCOMPANIED TOURS FOR USMTM ADVISORS ARE DESIRABLE, AND STATES WILLINGNESS TO REVIEW PACKAGE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD PUT USMTM ON FMS SALES CASE BASIS. USMTM IDENTIFIES 106 KEY POSITIONS, DIVIDED AMONG SEVEN SITES, WHOSE INCUMBENTS WOULD IDEALLY BE ON ACCOMPANIED TOURS. LACK OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THREE SITES, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT DEPENDENTS OF 35 ADVISORS AT THESE LOCATIONS MAY NEED TO BE HOUSED AT AN ALTERNATE PLACE OF RESIDENCE. CABLE ALSO ADDRESSES NEED FOR ADDITIONAL DEPENDENT SCHOOLING FACILITIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES, AND TRAINING. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR AND CHUSMTM MET WITH MINDEF SULTAN ON

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APRIL 8 TO DISCUSS IMPROVING US ADVISORY EFFORT. FOLLOWING

ONLY DAYS AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW USG-SAG EXPANDED COOPERATION AGREEMENT, DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT WAS VERY TIMELY. IT WAS PROPOSED THAT ADVISORS BE ASSIGNED TO TWO-YEAR TOURS, ACCOMPANIED BY FAMILIES. IT WAS STATED THAT ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE USMTM MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR DEPENDENTS. SULTAN WAS ASKED IF SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD MEET WITH HIS AGREEMENT, AND IF MODA WOULD PROVIDE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR EXPANDED HOUSING AND FACILITIES. SULTAN REPLIED THAT HE HAD LONG FELT THAT TOURS FOR ADVISORS SHOULD BE TWO YEARS IN LENGTH, THAT ADVISORS SHOULD BRING THEIR FAMILIES, AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE COMFORTABLY HOUSED.

2. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT IN VIEW OF NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDS, PERHAPS THIS WAS TIME TO CONSIDER CONVERTING USMTM BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO AN FMS BASIS, LIKE OUR ARRANGEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD. SULTAN REPLIED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WAS TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT. HE ASKED THAT WE PRESENT A DETAILED PROPOSAL WHICH COULD BE STUDIED BY HIS STAFF. CHUSMTM WILL DEVELOP SUCH A PROPOSAL. BELIEVE SAG FUNDING VIA FMS SALES CASE OFFERS ONLY PROACTICAL APPROACH TO OBTAINING QUARTERS IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY DESIRED IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY HAS READ CLOSELY PARAGRAPH 8A OF 1953 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AND BELIEVES CONVERSION TO FMS BASIS COULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT AMENDING EXISTING AGREEMENT, SINCE PARAGRAPH DOES NOT DEFINE MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH SERVICES SPECIFIED WILL BE PROVIDED. (BUT SEE PARA 5A(2) BELOW). WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO AVOID RENEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT IF POSSIBLE, BUT WILL BE EXAMINING THIS QUESTION FURTHER IN DAYS AHEAD IN CONSULTATION WITH USMTM. USMTM RECOMMENDS THAT FMS SALES CASE BE NEGOTIATED EVERY THREE YEARS BETWEEN SAG AND USG. THIS WOULD ALLOW FOR DELINEATION OF DETAILS AND AUTOMATICALLY PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC REVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS.

4. EMBASSY AND USMTM AGREE THAT SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ENHANCE ADVISORY EFFORT IN SAUDI ARABIA IS TO PROVIDE FOR TWO-YEAR ACCOMPANIED TOUR FOR KEY ADVISORS. IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT SUPPORT STRUCTURE BE ADEQUATE, SINCE KEY TO SUCCESS IS ATTRACTION OF HIGHEST CALIBER PERSONNEL.

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SONNEL. SPECIAL INCENTIVES IN TERMS OF MORALE, RECREATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS ARE NECESSARY TO ATTRACT THIS CALIBER. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SPECIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM OUTLINED REF B CANNOT BE OVERSTATED AND SHOULD BE GIVEN EVERY CONSIDERATION AT AN EARLY DATE. USMTM BELIEVES THE PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT ITEMS AND THE FAMILY INCENTIVE ITEMS ARE ESSENTIAL.

5. THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSES SPECIFICS CONTAINED IN REFERENCED PARAGRAPHS IN REF A.

A. PARAS 4A AND B: (1) REASSESSMENT OF KEY USMTM POSITIONS RESULTS IN TOTAL OF 106 RPT 106. FOLLOWING INDICATES LOCATION/POSITIONS/ACCOMPANIED QUARTERS NOW AVAILABLE/NET QUARTERS REQUIREMENT.

DHAHRAN: 14/12/2

RIYADH: 30/1 (10 MORE ANTICIPATED CY 75)/29

JIDDA: 15/0/15

TAIF: 12/1/11

TABUK: 13/0/0 (ALTERNATE RESIDENCE: RIYADH OR EUROPE)

KHAMIS MUSHAYT: 9/0/0 (ALTERNATE RESIDENCE: JIDDA OR EUROPE)

JUBAIL: 13/0/0 (ALTERNATE RESIDENCE: DHAHRAN OR EUROPE)

TOTAL: 106 (FY 77 JTD REQUIREMENT)/14 NOW AVAILABLE

(24 IN CY 75)/57 ADDITIONAL REQUIRED.

BREAKDOWN OF 57 REQUIRED IS AS FOLLOWS:

LAST QUARTER CY 74: 14 RPT 14

FIRST HALF CY 75: 17 RPT 17

LAST HALF CY 75: 13 RPT 13

FIRST HALF CY 76: 13 RPT 13.

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INR-10 NSAE-00 A-01 ABF-01 IGA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-04

AID-20 OPR-02 EUR-25 /118 W

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R 230603Z APR 74

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BECAUSE OF REMOTE ISOLATED LOCATIONS TOTALLY LACKING IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES WE DEEM TABUK, JUBAIL, AND KHAMIS MUSHAYT AS UNSUITABLE FOR DEPENDENT RESIDENCE, AND BELIEVE CONSTRUCTION OF FAMILY HOUSING AND SUPPORT FACILITIES AT THESE LOCATIONS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL. CONSEQUENTLY, AN ALTERNATE RESIDENCE IS INDICATED FOR THESE LOCATIONS FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME IF CONTINUITY BY THE ADVISORS AT KEY COMBAT ARMS SCHOOLS AND PRINCIPAL TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IS TO BE ACHIEVED. TWO WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS ARE USE OF HOUSING IN GERMANY AS PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED BY USMTM OR PROCURMENT OF ADDITIONAL HOUSING AT DHAHRAN, RIYADH, OR JIDDA.

(2) USMTM NOTES THAT A EUROPEAN ALTERNATE RESIDENCE SOLUTION HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF ALLOWING MORE FREEDOM AND CONVENIENCE TO WIVES AND BETTER CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN. IN-COUNTRY SOLUTION HAS THE ADVANTAGES OF MORE FREQUENT FAMILY CONTACT, PERMITTING DAILY TELEPHONE CONTACT, AND AVOIDS MONTHLY FIVE-TO-SIX DAY ABSENCES FROM JOB. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS PREFERABLE TO REQUEST FUNDS FOR WEEKEND IN-COUNTRY AIR TRAVEL RATHER THAN MONTHLY AIR TRAVEL TO EUROPE. REQUESTING FUNDS FOR AIR TRAVEL TO EUROPE WOULD PROBABLY NECESSITATE

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AMENDMENT TO 1953 AGREEMENT, WHICH PRESENTLY STATES THAT SAG "WILL BEAR ALL THE EXPENSES CONNECTED WITH THE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY GROUP IF SUCH TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ARE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS WITHIN SAUDI ARABIA." IT IS WORTH NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT SAG WOULD PROBABLY FIND IT CHEAPER TO PROVIDE MONTHLY AIR TICKETS TO EUROPE THAN TO RENT HOUSES IN-COUNTRY FOR FAMILIES. BASIC PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS TO SELL OFFICERS DESIGNATED FOR REMOTE LOCATION ASSIGNMENTS A TWO-YEAR UNACCOMPANIED RPT UNACCOMPANIED TOUR INSTEAD OF A ONE-YEAR UNACCOMPANIED TOUR. WE CANNOT STATE WHICH OF THESE ALTERNATE HOUSING PROPOSALS WILL SELL BETTER. USMTM'S INITIAL JUDGMENT IS TO ASK FOR OUT-OF-COUNTRY ALTERNATE RESIDENCE; EMBASSY'S, FOR IN-COUNTRY ALTERNATE. RECRUITING PROBLEM WILL BE GREAT IN EITHER CASE.

(3) SHOULD IN-COUNTRY ALTERNATE RESIDENCE PROPOSAL BE CHOSEN, USMTM WOULD REQUEST FUNDS TO PROVIDE DRIVERS FOR FAMILIES IN WHICH SPONSORS ARE AWAY FROM HOME DURING WEEK, SINCE WOMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DRIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA.

(4) IN EITHER ALTERNATIVE, DO NOT BELIEVE MODA WOULD BALK AT SUPPORT COSTS INVOLVED. LONG-ESTABLISHED CONTRACTS BETWEEN MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AND MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM ON ONE HAND AND EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS ON OTHER ALREADY CALL FOR PAID VACATION AND TRAVEL TO EUROPE FOR ONE MONTH

OUT OF EVERY FOUR.

(5) IN ADDITION TO USMTM, KEY ADVISORS ON ACCOMPANIED TOURS ATTACHED TO OTHER US MILITARY UNITS ARE AS FOLLOWS: COE: 10; SANG: 18; DET 22: 15; USDAO: 3. THUS, TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY FAMILIES IN COUNTRY WOULD TOTAL 152 RPT 152. QUARTERS ARE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO COE, SANG, AND DET 22 SINCE SAG FUNDING FOR RENTAL IS INCLUDED IN THEIR CONTRACTS. DAO QUARTERS ARE FUNDED SEPARATELY. PREVIOUS DEALINGS WITH SAUDIS ON SUBJECT OF ADDITIONAL HOUSING HAVE ENCOUNTERED CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE ON THEIR PART. MINDEF'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER NEW PROPOSAL MAY, HOWEVER, INDICATE NEW ATTITUDE. USMTM FMS PROPOSAL WILL INCLUDE FUNDING FOR ALL FAMILY QUARTERS, FURNISHINGS, AUTOS, INDIGENOUS DRIVERS, TRAVEL, AND MISCELL-
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ANEOUS SUPPORT. ONCE FUNDS ARE OBTAINED, PREF-FAB HOUSES SUCH AS THOSE SAG IS CONSIDERING FOR COE PURCHASE FOR HOUSING MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL AT TABUK, KHAMIS MUSHAYT, AND JIDDA MAY BE A REASONABLY RAPID SOLUTION TO THE 11 HOUSING UNITS REQUIRED AT TAIF, THOUGH PRACTICALITY FOR USE AT OTHER USMTM LOCATIONS IS QUESTIONABLE. ADEQUATE UNFURNISHED 3-4 BR FAMILY QUARTERS ARE AVAILABLE ON CIVILIAN ECONOMY IN DHAHRAN, RIYADH, TAIF (LIMITED SELECTION) AND JIDDA, AND LEASE IN THE \$10,000-\$14,000 RANGE (INCLUDES O & M) PER YEAR PER SET OF QUARTERS. (SOME ADDITIONAL QUARTERS IN DHAHRAN AREA COULD BE UTILIZED IN CONSULATE GENERAL COMPOUND BY MEANS OF A STATE/DOD AGREEMENT. FOUR 3-BEDROOM HOUSES AND FIVE 1-BEDROOM APARTMENTS ARE CURRENTLY BEING SUBLET TO NORTHROP). IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SIMPLE APPROVAL OF A HOUSING ALLOWANCE WILL NOT RESOLVE THE FAMILY HOUSING PROBLEM AS MOST LOCALLY CONSTRUCTED HOUSING REQUIRES FROM \$3,000 TO \$4,000 REHABILITATION TO WESTERN STANDARDS OF ADEQUACY. IN ADDITION, LEASES ARE FOR ONE TO TWO YEARS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

(6) TO PROVIDE ORDERLY PHASING OF INCOMING FAMILIES TO CORRESPOND WITH PERSONNEL REQUISITIONING CYCLES, RECOMMEND DIVIDING PROGRAM INTO THREE PHASES. PHASE I PERIOD OCT 74 THRU MAR 75. PHASE II PERIOD APR 75 THRU JUN 75. PHASE III PERIOD JULY 75 THRU JUN 76. IN PHASE I, TWELVE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WOULD BE BROUGHT OVER WITH FAMILIES. AN ADDITIONAL 21 RPT 21 FAMILIES WOULD BE BROUGHT IN DURING PHASE II PERIOD. THESE INCREASES CAN BE ACCOMMODATED WITH NO INCREASE IN SUPPORT FACILITIES ALTHOUGH CERTAIN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS COMMISSARY WOULD REQUIRE ADDED TCC MANPOWER. FINAL PHASE III WOULD INCLUDE THE REMAINING 25 RPT 25 FAMILIES OF KEY PERSONNEL.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 A-01 ABF-01 IGA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-04

AID-20 OPR-02 EUR-25 /118 W

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R 230630Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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B. PARA 4C, SCHOOLING: ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AS FOLLOWS: DHAHRAN, RIYADH, AND TAIF HAVE GRADES 1-8. JIDDA HAS GRADES 1-9. THESE ARE ALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS ESTABLISHED TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF US PERSONNEL STATIONED OR LIVING IN COUNTRY. TUITION FEES VARY BUT GENERALLY RANGE FROM \$1,000 TO \$1,250 PER PUPIL PER SCHOOL YEAR. USDESEA REGULATION 352-555 PROVIDES FOR DOD PAYMENT OF SUCH FEES. NO FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT KHAMIS MUSHAYT, TABUK, OR JUBAIL. GRADES 9 TO 12 ATTEND THE DOD SCHOOL AT BAHRAIN. BAHRAIN INCIDENTALS COST IS ABOUT \$250 PER SCHOOL YEAR. ROOM AND BOARD FEES ARE PROVIDED BY DOD FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS. MAJOR IMPACT IS IN RIYADH WHERE THE SCHOOL IS ALREADY AT PEAK ENROLLMENT. REQUIREMENT FOR MORE PRIVATE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IS PROBABLE. THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE BAHRAIN SCHOOL FOR GRADES 9-12 IS DOUBTFUL BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES OVER COMIDEASTFOR FUTURE. SHOULD THE MILITARY PRESENCE BE CONTINUED THERE, THE SCHOOL IS ADEQUATE TO ABSORB REASONABLE NUMBERS OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN. THE ALTERNATIVES ARE BOARDING SCHOOLS IN BEIRUT OR MADRID.

C. PARA 5(A): WE WILL ADDRESS QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL
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PX, COMMISSARY, AND MEDICAL SUPPORT FACILITIES SHORTLY.

D. PARA 5(B): COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES (COLA) ARE CURRENTLY IN EFFECT ONLY AT RIYADH AND JIDDA. A PROPOSAL FOR COLA FOR OTHER LOCATIONS WAS FORWARDED FOR REVIEW/ ACTION ON 23 DEC 73. IF, HOWEVER, PX AND COMMISSARY WERE ELIMINATED, SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER INCREASES IN PRESENT COLA TABLES WOULD BE REQUIRED. RANDOM SAMPLE OF PRICES OF GOODS IN DHAHRAN SITE SUPPLY AS COMPARED TO LIKE ITEMS ON CIVILIAN ECONOMY INDICATED THAT COST OF PX TYPE PURCHASES WOULD INCREASE BY 80.1 PERCENT IF ALL ITEMS WERE PURCHASED ON LOCAL ECONOMY. THE SAME SAMPLE APPLIED TO FOOD IN COMMISSARY WOULD RESULT IN A FOOD COST INCREASE OF 168.9 PERCENT. THE ABOVE CONCLUSIONS ARE BASED ON THE RECENT STUDY MADE IN SUPPORT OF COLA FOR COUNTRY LOCATIONS OTHER THAN RIYADH AND JIDDA. RECOMMEND COLA BE AUTHORIZED AT PRESENT AND RECOMMEND LEVELS AND CONTINUED OPERATION AND EXPANSION OF PRESENT COMMISSARY AND SITE SUPPLY SYSTEM IN COUNTRY.

E. PARA 5(C), TRAINING: AN ELEMENTARY ARABIC COURSE OF 6-8 WEEKS DURATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PERSONNEL SERVING IN KEY POSITIONS. THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS COURSE SHOULD BE NOT TO TEACH PERSONNEL TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN CONVERSATIONAL ARABIC, BUT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF ARABIC COURTESY EXPRESSIONS AND POLITE PHRASES: THE ABILITY TO ASK DIRECTIONS, ENGAGE IN SIMPLE BARGAINING AND SATISFY CERTAIN BASIC NEEDS. RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN ARABIC WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS (MOST OF WHOM SPEAK ENGLISH OR CONVERSE THROUGH INTERPRETERS), THE COURSE WOULD PROVIDE THE ADVISOR WITH A SENSE OF CULTURAL AWARENESS OF VARIOUS SOCIAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO RESPOND WITH CERTAIN ARABIC PHRASES. THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE THESE SITUATIONS AND RESPOND WITH THE APPROPRIATE ARABIC WILL GREATLY FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRIENDLY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS A PREREQUISITE IN THE ARAB WORLD FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADVISOR-COUNTERPART RELATIONSHIP. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A SPECIAL COURSE FOR THIS PURPOSE, SINCE ALL EXISTING COURSES AIM PRIMARILY AT PROVIDING PERSONNEL WITH CONVERSATIONAL ABILITY RATHER THAN CULTURAL AWARENESS.

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6. EMBASSY AND USMTM WELCOME COMMENTS OF DEPARTMENT AND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY LOGISTICS, MILITARY ADVISERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA02116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740094-0949
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740422/aaaaatdp.tel
Line Count: 387
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 44978 DTG 062114Z MAR 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOUR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL
TAGS: MARR, SA, US
To: STATE USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005